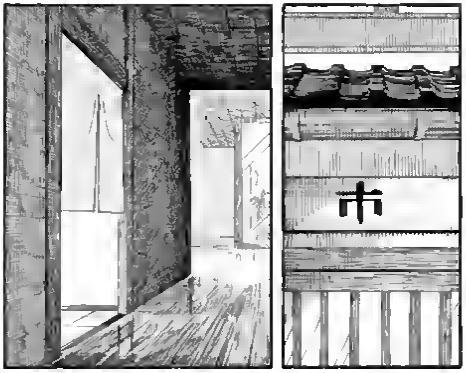
Chapter
2

The Caterer is 16 Years Old



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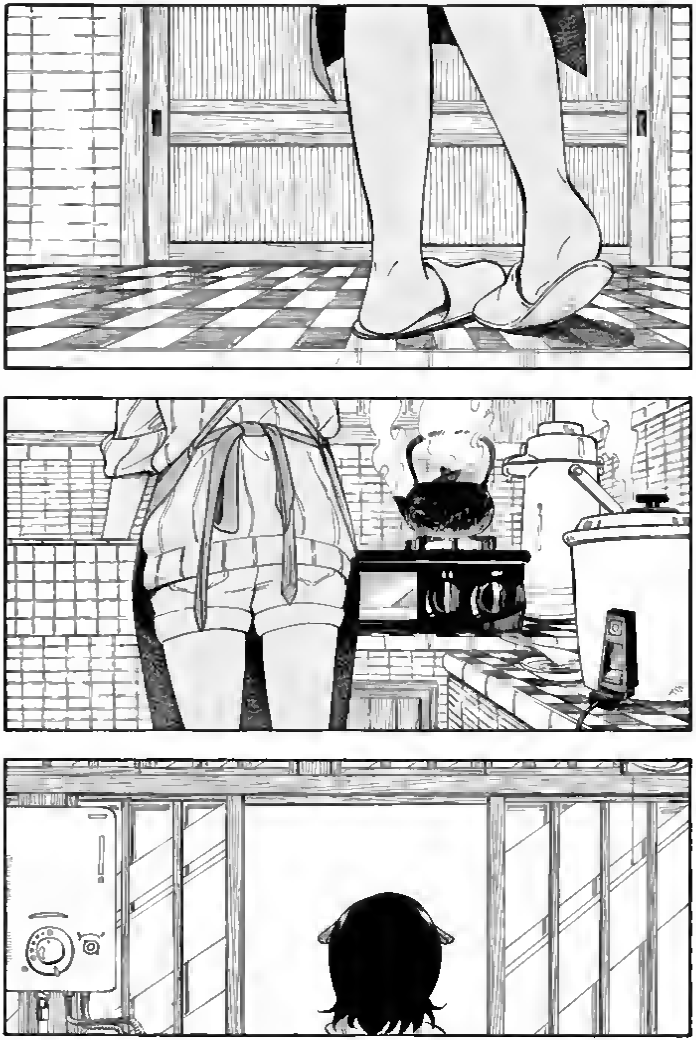
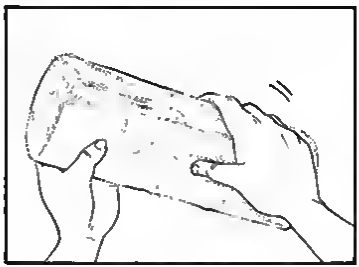
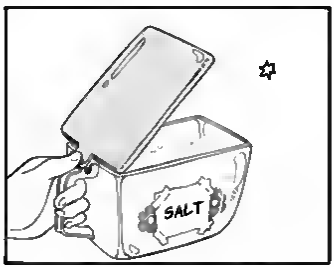
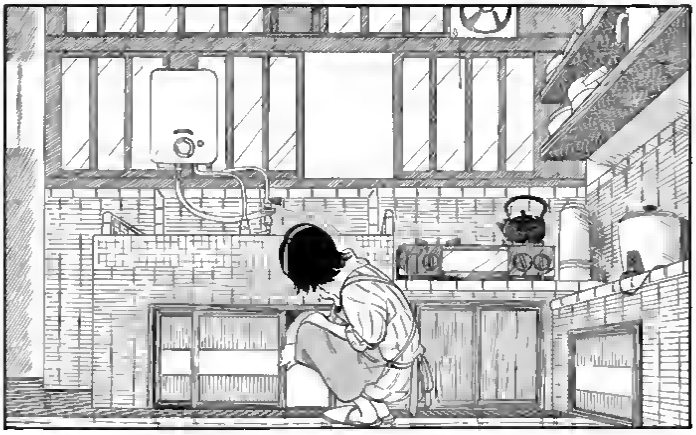
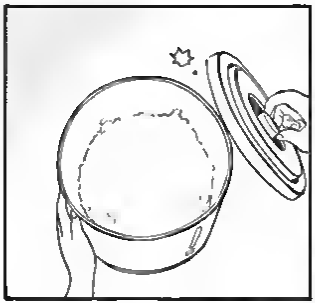
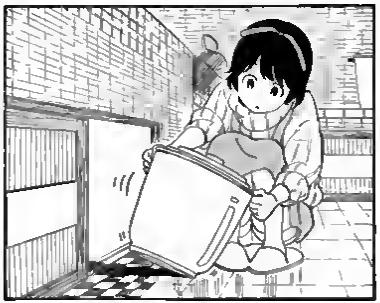


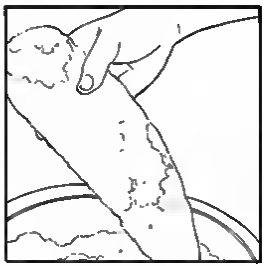



SALT





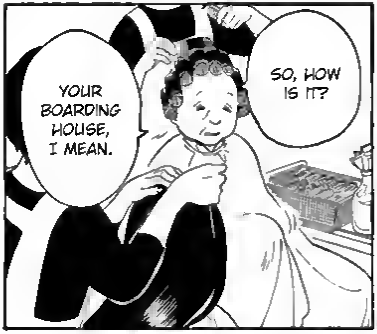




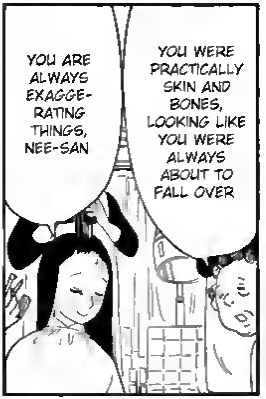
rustle
rustle
rustle

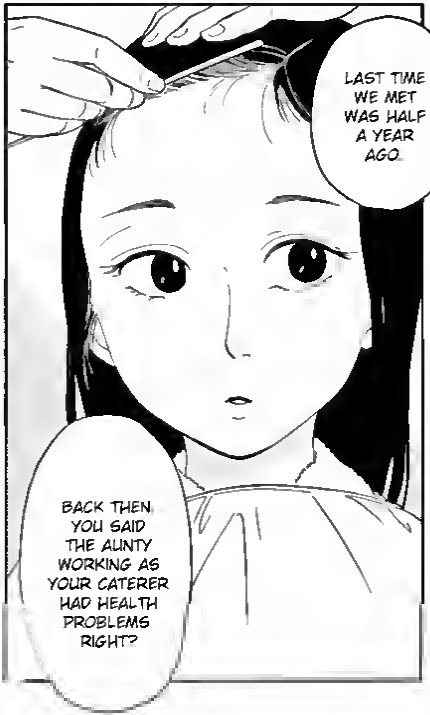
KIYO, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AH, MOTHER.
THANK YOU KIYO-SAN, RICE-BRAN IS REALLY HAPPY!
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, RIGHT? IT'S YOUR DINNER
I'LL BE BACK BY LUNCH-TIME.
OKAY.
I'M GOING TO THE BEAUTY PARLOR FOR A BIT
I WILL PREPARE LUNCH
AND WAIT FOR YOUR RETURN!

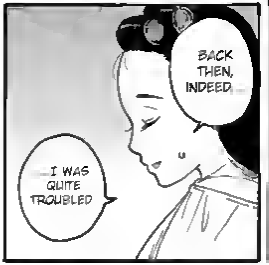
GOOD MORNING.
Beauty
Beauty Parlor
OH,
IF IT ISN'T THE TOWN'S MOTHER.
HERE, YOU CAN SIT ON THIS CHAIR.
AAH, IT'S THE TOWN'S MOTHER.
WEL-COME.
THANK YOU

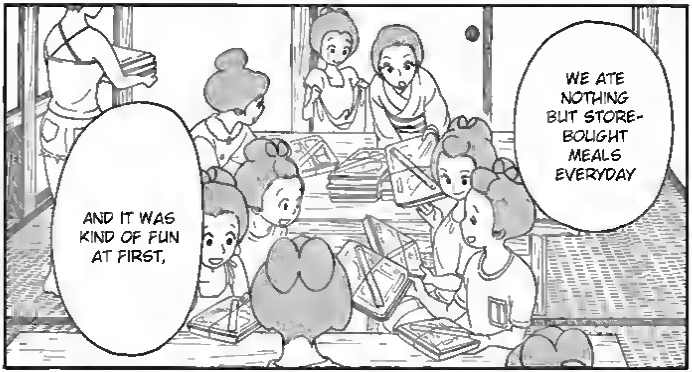

YOUR BOARDING HOUSE, I MEAN.
SO, HOW IS IT?

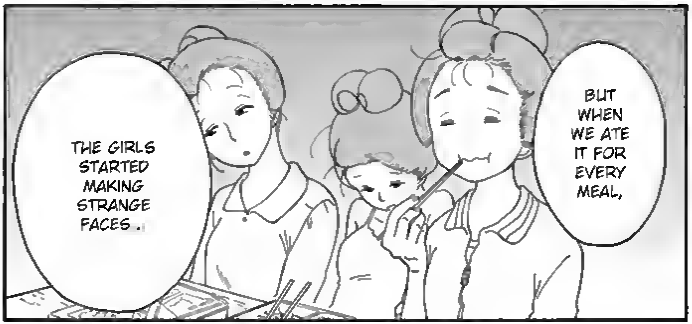
I'M DEEPLY SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU, NEE-SAN
IT'S FINE SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN.

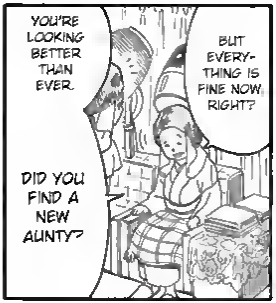

YOU ARE ALWAYS EXAGGE-RATING THINGS, NEE-SAN
YOU WERE PRACTICALLY SKIN AND BONES, LOOKING LIKE YOU WERE ALWAYS ABOUT TO FALL OVER

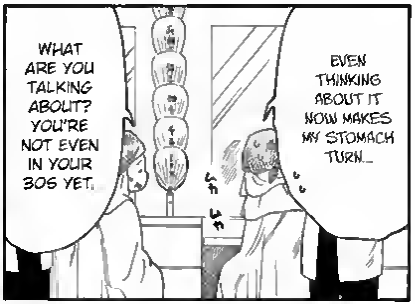

LAST TIME WE MET WAS HALF A YEAR AGO.
BACK THEN YOU SAID THE AUNTY WORKING AS YOUR CATERER HAD HEALTH PROBLEMS RIGHT?

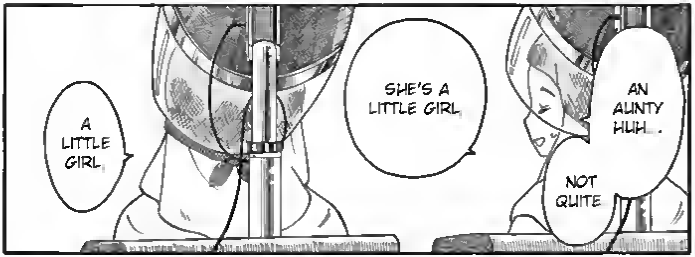

BACK THEN, INDEED.
I WAS QUITE TROUBLED

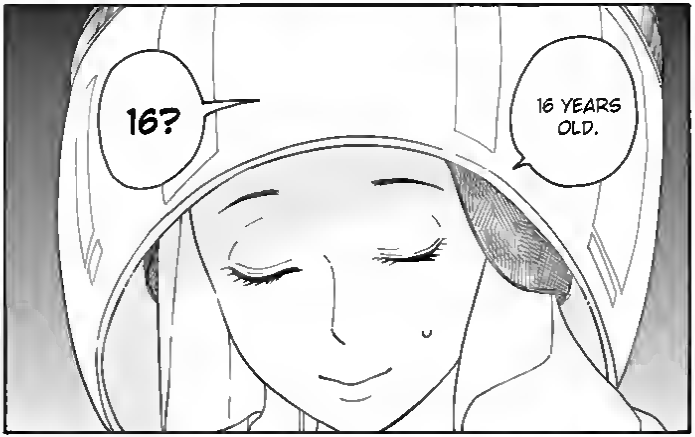

AND IT WAS KIND OF FUN AT FIRST,
WE ATE NOTHING BUT STORE-BOUGHT MEALS EVERYDAY


THE GIRLS STARTED MAKING STRANGE FACES...
BUT WHEN WE ATE IT FOR EVERY MEAL,

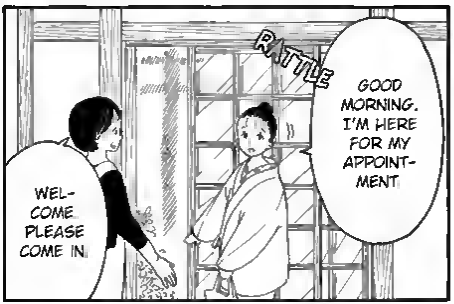

YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER.
DID YOU FIND A NEW AUNTY?
BUT EVERY-THING IS FINE NOW, RIGHT?


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN YOUR 30S YET.
EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT NOW MAKES MY STOMACH TURN...


A LITTLE GIRL
SHE'S A LITTLE GIRL
AN AUNTY HUH...
NOT QUITE


16?
16 YEARS OLD.

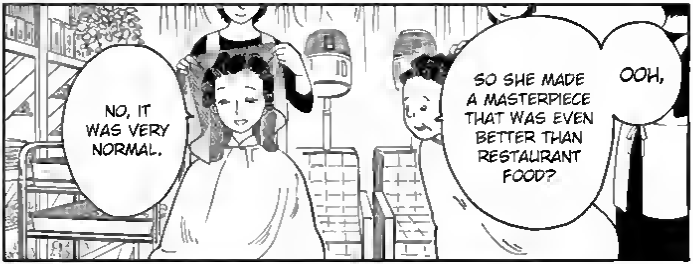
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
ONEE-SAN, MOTHER, GOOD MORNING.


RATTLE
GOOD MORNING. I'M HERE FOR MY APPOINTMENT
WELCOME. PLEASE COME IN.

AT 16,
NOT WORKING AS A MAIKO BUT AS A CATERER IS A BIT...
ABOUT THAT...
BUT, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS. SHE WAS JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR IT NO MATTER WHAT, I GUESS
HMM
WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO THE CAPITAL...
...SHE HAD INTENDED TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE MAIKO...
BUT JUST WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE...
IT WAS FUTILE I GUESS, IF THAT WAS ALL SHE HAD

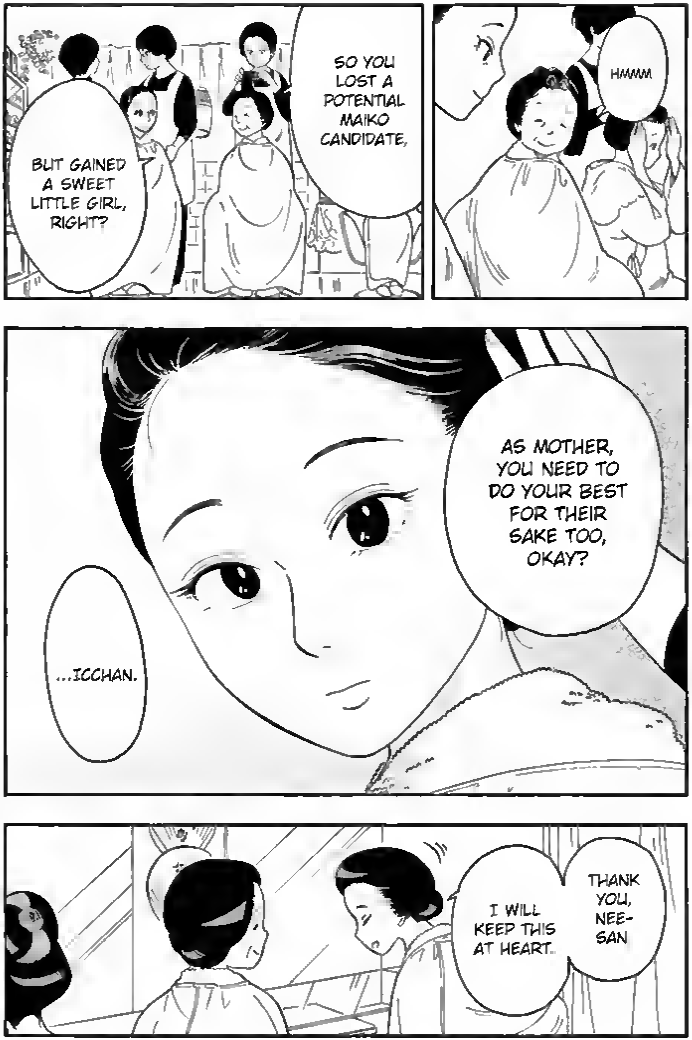
HMM
...COL-
LAPSED.
THE
CATERING
AUNTY...
SHE
SO
KIYO
BUT THEN,
THE GIRLS
SAID THEY
WERE SICK
OF BOXED
MEALS AND
THAT THEY
WANTED
SOMETHING
ELSE...
OCCASIONALLY,
THERE WERE
DAYS WHEN
EVERY PLACE
WE'D BUY
LUNCH BOXES
FROM WOULD
TAKE A BREAK.
YEAH.
THAT 16 YEAR
OLD GIRL
NAMED KIYO...

AND MADE A MEAL FOR US.
SHE IMMEDIATELY TOOK EVERY INGREDIENT WE HAD,
A BOWL OF OYAKO-DON.
Oyakodon
(Using every last bit of chicken and eggs you have in the fridge)


NO, IT WAS VERY NORMAL.
SO SHE MADE A MASTERPIECE THAT WAS EVEN BETTER THAN RESTAURANT FOOD?
OOH,

IT WAS A COMPLETELY NORMAL BOWL OF OYAKODON
SHE DIDN'T USE ANY SPECIAL INGREDIENTS EITHER...
IT WAS NOT A LOCAL TASTE.

BUT SOMEHOW, EVERYONE FELT AT EASE.


SO YOU LOST A POTENTIAL MAIKO CANDIDATE,
BUT GAINED A SWEET LITTLE GIRL, RIGHT?
HMMM
AS MOTHER, YOU NEED TO DO YOUR BEST FOR THEIR SAKE TOO, OKAY?
...ICCHAN.
THANK YOU, NEE-SAN
I WILL KEEP THIS AT HEART.

WELCOME HOME!
I'M BACK.
MOTHER,
THE FOOD IS READY!
WHAT ARE WE HAVING FOR LUNCH?
WE'RE HAVING OYAKODON
IS THAT SO?
THEN I'LL GO WASH MY HANDS FIRST
CALL THE GIRLS DOWN
OKAAY

Food memo from Koyama-san's house

NO 2

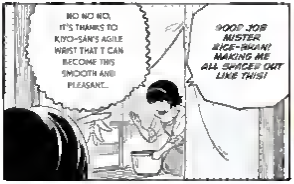
OYAKODON

I love having it with a rough mix of egg whites and yolk/

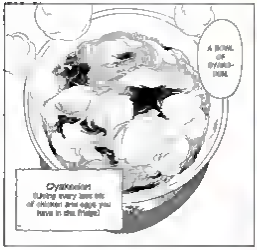
I also love having it with a mountain of seaweed or with a seven-spice mixture too

TL-Notes:

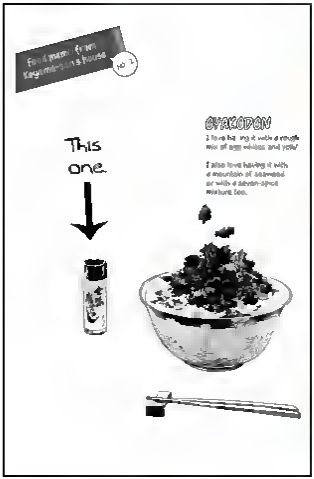
RICE BRAN: NUKADOKO IS A FERMENTED RICE BRAN BED USED FOR PICKLING STUFF. IT NEEDS FRESH RICE, SALT AND TO BE AERATED ONCE A MONTH.


NO NO NO, IT'S THANKS TO KYO-SAN'S AGILE WRIST THAT T CAN BECOME THIS SMOOTH AND PLEASANT...
GOOD JOB MISTER RICE-WHAN! MAKING ME ALL SHICKLY OUT LIKE THIS!

OYAKODON: CHICKEN, EGG, SLICED SCALLION (OR SOMETIMES REGULAR ONIONS), AND OTHER INGREDIENTS SIMMERED TOGETHER IN A SAUCE AND THEN SERVED ON TOP OF A LARGE BOWL OF RICE.



SEVEN-SPICE (SHICHIMI): A MIX OF CAYENNE, SESAME, JAPANESE PEPPER, CITRUS PEEL, ETC.



/a/nonymous presents:

1

maiko-san chi no makanai-san

Translator: Winstonite
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